

a communication control unit connected to each of the image forming devices by a signal line, the communication control unit connecting one of the image forming devices to the central service station by a communication network,

each of the image forming devices being configured to detect a transmission fault from at least one of the central service station and the communication control unit over a predetermined period through a periodically initiated process and to display a signal line separation message when the image forming device detects the transmission fault from at least one of the central service station and the communication control unit over the predetermined period.

5-5 D. > 7. (Amended) An image forming device management system, comprising:

a plurality of image forming devices;

a central service station for providing a maintenance service for the image forming devices; and

a communication control unit connected to each of the image forming devices by a signal line, the communication control unit connecting one of the image forming devices to the central service station by a communication network,

each of the image forming devices being configured to detect a transmission fault of the communication control unit over a predetermined period through a periodically initiated process and to display a signal line separation message when the image forming device detects the transmission fault from the communication control unit over the predetermined period, and

wherein said display of the signal line separation message indicates a transmission fault along the signal line between the image forming device and the communication control unit.

5.6 D.1)

30. (Amended) An image forming device management system, comprising:

a plurality of means for image forming;

maintenance service means provided for the plurality of means for image forming; and

means for communicating and controlling, connected to each of the means for image

forming by a signal line, the means for communicating and controlling connecting one of the

means for image forming to the maintenance service means by a communication network,

each of the means for image forming being configured to detect a transmission fault

from at least one of the maintenance service means and the means for communicating and

controlling over a predetermined period through a periodically initiated process and to display

a signal line separation message when the means for image forming detects the transmission

fault from at least one of the maintenance service means and the means for communicating

and controlling over the predetermined period.

5.6 D.1)

36. (Amended) A means for image forming management, comprising:

a plurality of means for image forming;

maintenance service means provided for the means for image forming; and

means for communicating and controlling connected to each of the means for image

forming by a signal line, the means for communicating and controlling connecting one of the

means for image forming to the maintenance service means by a communication network,

each of the means for image forming being configured to detect a transmission fault

from the means for communicating and controlling over a predetermined period through a

periodically initiated process and to display a signal line separation message when the means

for image forming detects the transmission fault from the means for communicating and

controlling over the predetermined period.